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29 July 2002

MaryAnn Manoogian
Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services
57 Regional Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Dear MaryAnn,

It was nice to run into you the other day outside your office. I enjoyed talking with Bill Burtis and I'm glad to hear that the 10-year energy plan is coming along well.

Toward that end, I wanted to send you a handful of suggestions and ideas I hope you'll consider for inclusion in the plan.

As you'll recall, this letter follows a separate request from NHPIRG, the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Lakes Association, and the American Wind Energy Association to model an aggressive conservation and renewable energy scenario as part of the 10-year plan. All of those groups are grateful for the chance to help shape the plan, and I'm confident that the final draft will provide a valuable tool for state policymakers.

I hope these additional suggestions are helpful:

- Establish a statewide efficiency and conservation goal and a statewide renewable energy goal by which New Hampshire can measure its progress.
- Address New Hampshire's commitment, under the regional climate change agreement signed by Gov. Shaheen last summer, to dramatically reduce global warming pollution by 2010. Though I understand the 10-year plan can't encompass that agreement entirely, I do think it should figure prominently in a discussion of how and where we'll generate our power during the next decade.
- Expand the highly successfully Building Energy Conservation Initiative to include municipal buildings and others.

- Extend the systems benefit charge in the Legislature during the 2003 session, and expand that charge to support clean, renewable sources of power (as other states have done), in addition to our core energy efficiency and conservation programs.
- Establish an avenue for citizen evaluation and, potentially, oversight of the core programs currently administered by New Hampshire utilities.
- Adopt a renewable energy standard that takes into account the economic importance of wood-burning power plants in the North Country, but primarily emphasizes wind and solar power.
- Implement a provision in the deregulation law that requires utilities to inform customers of the sources of electricity in their energy mix. Even if customers currently have little choice as to the sources of their power, that disclosure ought to help create momentum for clean, renewable power.
- Help give the renewable energy industry a foothold by requiring state agencies to purchase 10 percent of their power from renewable sources. That would help provide opportunities for local renewable energy companies, reduce pollution, and help stabilize prices.
- Adopt tax incentives for wind and solar technology that apply to the entire state. Since nearly all costs for renewable technologies are upfront rather than spread out in the form of fuel costs, tax incentives for those costs are one way to help individuals and businesses handle the challenge of upfront investment. At present, those incentives are available only to a minority of New Hampshire residents.

Thanks again for your work on the 10-year plan and for giving NHPIRG and others a chance to contribute. I look forward to reading the final plan. In the meantime, please feel free to call me with questions about these suggestions.

Sincerely,



Josh Irwin
Director